

MISCELLANEOUS.

A BOWL FROM NIPPUR.

BY ALAN S. HAWKESWORTH.

Dr. Myhrman, Ph. D. of Upsala, Sweden, contributes to the *Hilprecht Anniversary Volume* the text and translation of "An Aramaic Incantation Text," illustrated by two full-page photogravure reproductions of the baked clay bowl from Nippur, inside of which the said incantation is inscribed. It is written in a rabbinical Hebrew script, and in a dialect closely akin to that of the present or "Babylonian" Talmud, magical bowls and Talmud, indeed, being common products of the same locality, surroundings, age, and men. The bowl under discussion, moreover, as Dr. Myhrman points out, derives an additional value from the unique fact that among the medley of divine and angelic powers invoked, the gnostic Abraxas is included, a divine name that hitherto, strangely enough, has not been found upon these relics of superstition and black magic.

NOTES.

The American method of voting is so complicated that it means a citizenship which is for experts only. As a result we have a government by politicians. In English cities, the council elects the mayor and all other officials. The people simply make one choice on election day, and know what they are doing. Their scrutiny is concentrated and the representatives whom they elect are responsible for the rest. As a result graft and other political nuisances are practically unknown in the city administration of England. The Short Ballot Organization, 383 Fourth Ave., New York, advocates a reform which would adopt the English method.

We have just learned indirectly through personal correspondence of the very recent death of the Baroness von Zedtwitz who, it will be remembered, was one of the Caldwell sisters who founded and endowed the Catholic University at Washington. As lately as in the December number of *The Open Court*, the editor reviewed her book, *The Double Doctrine of the Church of Rome*, in a brief article. The news of her death will be received with regret by the many who know of her conscientious attitude toward life and her seriousness of purpose.

God the Beautiful, by Emil P. Berg, has been translated into German by E. Forsyth under the title *Gott als Inbegriff des Schönen* (Lugano: Coenobium, 1910). This series of letters has been compared to Max Müller's *Deutsche Liebe* in its sentimental tenor, and portrays a pantheistic God-conception.